

Public Service Commission of South Carolina

Clerk's Office

P.O. Drawer 11649

Columbia, SC 29211

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to register my protest to the rate increase request asked for by Palmetto Utilities, Inc Docket No. 2011-24-S in the amount of \$9.00 per month increasing from \$29.50 to \$38.50 per month. I would also ask to file a Petition to Intervene in this case also, I will need approximately 10 minutes.

I have read the request and it states that they have not asked for a rate increase in over 12 years and they held town hall meetings in 2010 supposedly to discuss this matter, well I am a customer and rate payer to this company and wasn't aware of any of the town hall meetings called to specifically discuss this particular matter last year, when and how was this information provided to their customers?

I have read the companies "Need and Justification for Rate Relief" and find it lacking in details as to why they need this to continue to provide reasonable and adequate services to its customers because from what I see from their financial records they don't appear to be in distress or having financial hardship. They have continued to grow per their filing for the last few years in customer base as well.

I do understand the economy is hard, you bet and I as a customer am feeling it harder apparently than this company as I haven't had a pay increase since 1998, yes I have had cost of living increases if that is what you call a 1% or 2% increase and not every year and none in the last 3 years, while inflation was registering at 3% and above each year, at the same time I have had my medical insurance increased so it wiped out any increase and have had to take 2 pay cuts just to keep my job so as you can see yes it might only be \$9 more a month, but if everyone keeps digging in my pockets for an additional \$9 a month I won't have it to give. I am already paying twice what I did for gas each week, my SCE&G bill keeps going up and up several times a year, they keep increasing the taxes on my home even though they say it's worth more than I could sell it for today and I have challenged them as they have reassessed me twice in the past 2 years.

I ask the Public Service Commission to do their job and protect me as a citizen and ask the real tough and hard questions as I know times are tough, \$9 more a month really, you must be kidding me show me where they are hurting financially as they have a steady income from their customer base as we can't live in this area without it we don't have another sewage service we can turn to for service, if there is let me now and I'll see what their rates are so just like SCE&G I

don't have a choice in service providers. I would propose that if you want an increase get it from your new customers as they come on board and not from your existing ones.

So I protest this rate increase request as I realize I am in the minority on this as the majority of people may agree with me they will remain silent as I know I represent more than myself with these views, rate increases at times like these need to stop or at least be more justified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Seastrunk, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "S".

Charles E. Seastrunk, III

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